



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Fix My Streets Financing Working Group
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

Location:	New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board 2100 Leon C. Simon, 2nd Floor Training Room New Orleans, LA 70122	
Agenda	I.	CALL TO ORDER
	II.	ROLL CALL
	III.	NEW BUSINESS
	IV.	CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
	V.	PUBLIC COMMENT
	VI.	ADJOURNMENT

V. Public Comment

The comments below were offered by public meeting attendees, via written comment cards. Elements of the comment cards have been edited for clarity. Contact information has been adjusted to ensure privacy.

1. Representative from Bike Easy: Please consider how the investment to encourage low-impact transportation – biking and walking – can help reduce costs of preventative maintenance and reconstruction over the long term.

Response: Thank you for the feedback. The Complete Streets Policy and ongoing development of bicycle infrastructure is part of each Department of Public Works and City Planning Commission project. We are committed to growing this infrastructure and providing equitable access to the City's transportation system.

2. Representative from BikeEasy: Where can the public find more detailed information on the April streets bond measure?

Response: On April 9, 2016, New Orleans constituents voted in favor of a \$120 million bond renewal millage to support infrastructure improvements throughout the City.

3. **Representative from Lakeview:** I work with blight in Gentilly. There are 13 property owners in the area with 269 total properties that are [noted as] non-profits [by the New Orleans Assessor]. Only two [of the properties] are being used as churches, the remaining properties are blighted and vacant. Why can't blighted and vacant properties be taxed? They need to be taxed.

Response: Non-profits are exempt from property taxes under State Law however the City routinely cites non-profits and churches under the Minimum Property Maintenance Code for blight.

4. **Representative from Hurtsville:** An immediate source of funding could be through the SELA project. Change orders could be issued to repair the minor roads, such as Leontine St., being used as haul routes. Some were in poor condition prior to the SELA project and being destroyed by non-stop traffic, all day by an extremely high volume of construction, commercial and passenger car traffic. Isn't SELA funded through FEMA, that could be a source of funding for the damages caused by the project.

Response: The US Army Corps of Engineers Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Project (SELA) reduces the risk of flood damages due to rainfall flooding in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes. The improvements generally support the parishes' master drainage plans and provide flood risk reduction up to a level associated with a 10-year rainfall event. USACE projects require a local sponsor, in this case the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans. Additionally USACE projects have their scope of work defined by their Congressional authorization. The Corps is only required to repave the portions of roadway used directly by the project. Repaving the side roads, which absorb local traffic during construction, is the responsibility of the City of New Orleans. The City's plans to repave damaged roadways are available at RoadWork.nola.gov.

5. **Representative from Parkview Condominium Association:** Much comment was made [during the presentation by the Bureau of Governmental Research] on decreased ridership of RTA. If the RTA provided more efficient and frequent service, more people would ride. I live near the St. Bernard [bus] route but it is not useful to ride, so I don't.

My condo is located adjacent to the new McDonogh #35 building. Davey St., which runs between the two, is so cratered with potholes that is barely passable yet school buses deliver students on the gravel road every morning. The buses seem close to teetering over. This is an emergency situation that is completely being ignored.

Response: The Department of Public Works has significant improvement plans for the portion of the St. Bernard Neighborhood near McDonogh #35. St. Denis St. from Encampment to St. Bernard Ave. and Senate St. from Davey to St. Bernard Ave.



were repaved in 2015. Davey St. from Harrison Ave. to Milton St., Milton St. from Davey St. to Cadillac St., Cadillac St. from Harrison Ave. to Sere St. and Encampment St. from Milton to Sere St. are scheduled to be repaved as part of the Youth Study St. project currently scheduled to begin construction later this year. Additionally, portions of the roads are eligible for improvements via the FEMA-funded Recovery Roads program. To be added to the project contact list, write dpw@nola.gov and indicate the name of the project you would like to receive updates about.

6. **Representative from Parkview St. John Condo Association:** PVSJ condos are located at 4000 Davey St. across from McDonogh #35 school. Davey St. is the route for the school busses which teeter precariously on the terribly potholed streets. We spent \$60 million to build a safe school for the 1200 students whose lives are challenged by the possibility their bus will fall over on the way to school. When will the Streets be fixed?

Response: The Department of Public Works has significant improvement plans for the portion of the St. Bernard Neighborhood near McDonogh #35. St. Denis St. from Encampment to St. Bernard Ave. and Senate St. from Davey to St. Bernard Ave. were repaved in 2015. Davey St. from Harrison Ave. to Milton St., Milton St. from Davey St. to Cadillac St., Cadillac St. from Harrison Ave. to Sere St. and Encampment St. from Milton to Sere St. are scheduled to be repaved as part of the Youth Study St. project currently scheduled to begin construction later this year. Additionally, portions of the roads are eligible for improvements via the FEMA-funded Recovery Roads program. To be added to the project contact list, write dpw@nola.gov and indicate the name of the project you would like to receive updates about.